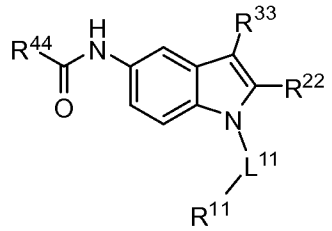
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent together with a compound of the formula,



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

L^{11} is carbonyl, or a covalent bond when R^{11} is H;

R^{11} is H except when L^{11} ~~iscarbonyl~~is carbonyl, then R^{11} is phenyl substituted with 1-3 R^{50}, or C_{4-6}-heteroaryl containing 1-3 heteroatoms selected from the group N, S, and O and substituted with 1-3 R^{50};

R^{22} is ~~H, or~~ C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{33} is H or C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^{44} is H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, C_{3-7} cycloalkanone, optionally substituted C_{3-7} monocyclic or C_{7-13} bicyclic aryl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atom, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or S atom, wherein said optional substitutions are one to four R^6 groups;

each R^{50} is independently H, halo, Cl, F, CF_3, C_1-C_3 per fluoro, C_1-C_3 perhalo, -OC_1-C_3 perhalo, NO_2, CH_3, R^7, -OCH_3, -OR^7, -SR^7, -CN, -NHR^7, -$N(R^7)_2$, -$CON(H)R^{23}CON(R^7)_2$, -$R^{23}N(H)R^7$, -$R^{23}N(R^7)_2$;

each R^6 is independently H, halo, Cl, F, -CF_3, -NO_2, -R^{50}, -SR^{50}, -OR^{50}, -CN, $N(R^{50})_2$, -$C(O)R^{50}$, -$R^{23}C(O)R^{50}$, -$CON(R^{50})_2$, C_4-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkanone, C_{4-6} cycloalkylamine,

C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atoms or a C_6-C_{12} monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or [[5]] S atom;

R^7 is H, halo or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{23} is a bond or is C_1-C_6 alkyl;

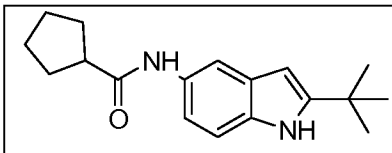
with the proviso that R^{22} is not CH_3 when R^{11} is H.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) [[A]] The composition according to claim 25 wherein R^{22} is t-butyl or neo-pentyl.

29. (Currently amended) [[A]] The composition according to claim 28 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:



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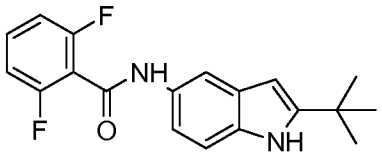

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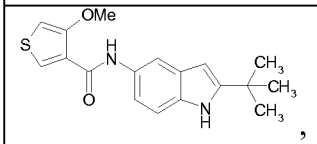

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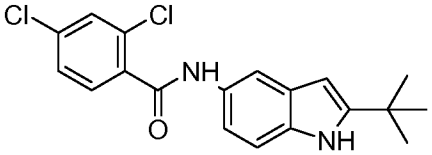

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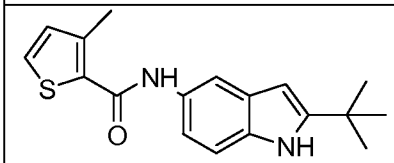

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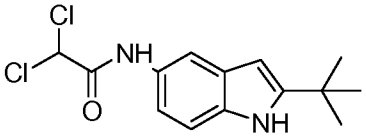

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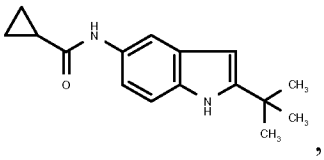

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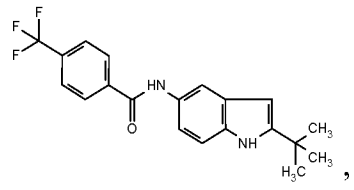
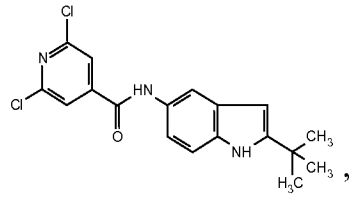
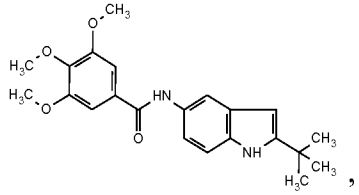
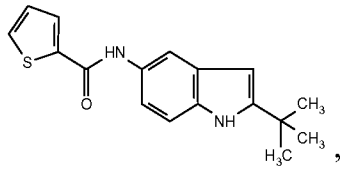
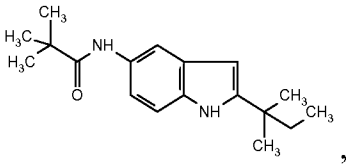
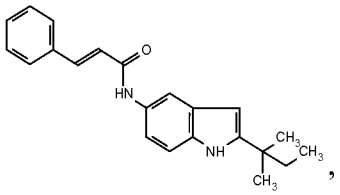
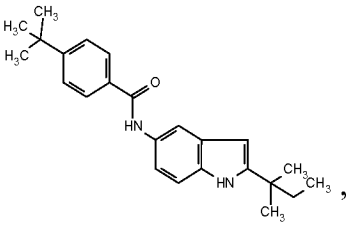
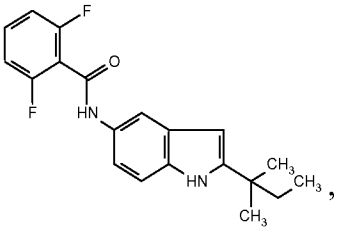
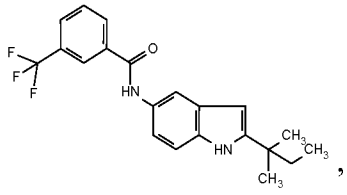
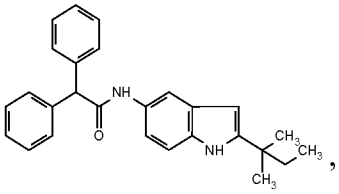
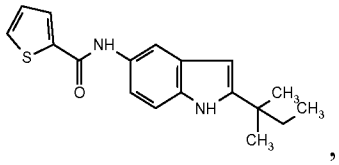
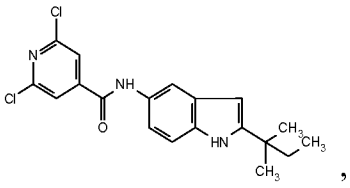
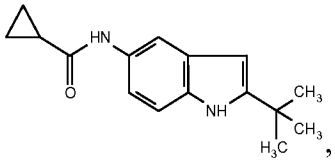
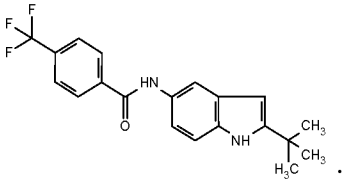
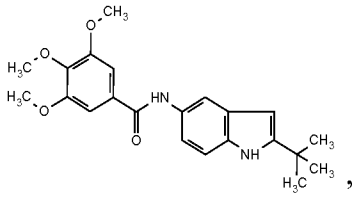
278	 ,
279	 ,
280	 ,
281	 ,

282	 ,
283	 ,
284	 ,
285	 ,

286	 ,
287	 ,
288	 ,
289	 ,

290	 ,
278	 .
280	 ,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical~~ The composition according to claim 25 wherein for said compound L^{11} is carbonyl.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical~~ The composition according to claim 30 wherein for said compound R^{11} is phenyl or pyridyl.

32. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical~~ The composition according to claim 31 wherein for said compound R^{22} is CH_3.

33. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical~~ The composition according to claim 32 wherein for said compound R^{33} is H or CH_3.

34. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical~~ The composition according to claim 31 wherein for said compound R^{33} is H or CH_3.

35. - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV, said method comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 25.

39. (Previously presented) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV, said method comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 30.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said mammal is a human.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said mammal is a human.

42. (New) The composition according to claim 25 wherein R^{44} is optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, optionally substituted C_{5-7} monocyclic aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S.

43. (New) The composition according to claim 25 wherein R^{44} is optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{5-7} monocyclic aryl, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S.

44. (New) The composition according to claim 43 wherein R^{22} is t-butyl.

45. (New) The composition according to claim 44 wherein R^{33} is H.

46. (New) The composition according to claim 45 wherein said compound is N-(2-tert-butyl-1H-indol-5-yl)thiophene-2-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.